

# SES TIGER NEWS

October 20, 2023

## What a Great start to the School Year!

### A Note from Mr. Clement

Happy Fall to all of our SES families!

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. We have had a great start to the 2023-2024 school year. We were able to start our school year with the new water filtration system which alleviates the PFAS issues. It is great to be able to put that behind us. Our roof has had repairs to prepare us for the winter months. Next week we will have the tire chips on the playground replaced with wood chips. That's quite a nice trifecta of improvements!

The staff at Surry Elementary School are excited to fill our days with opportunities to learn and engage! We have had classes go on field trips, some are learning how to play instruments, while all kids are earning praise for demonstrating traits of being respectful, responsible, kind, and safe.

One of our schoolwide goals this year is to improve our overall student attendance. We have been impressed with how the unexcused absences have diminished compared to years past. We all want to maintain this wonderful trend. Getting into the habit of daily attendance is more important than ever. It helps to:

- reduce stress
- make it easier to connect with friends and teachers
- support learning

Communication is a vital part of a successful school-home partnership, so we encourage you to maintain open lines with our staff and administration if you have questions or concerns. We want to ensure that you are prepared and well informed about your child's progress this year so please contact us as needed.

We are working to make our school environment a place where everyone can be safe, healthy and learning. We will do our best to listen and partner with you so that our children have a successful year. Do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Larry Clement, Principal

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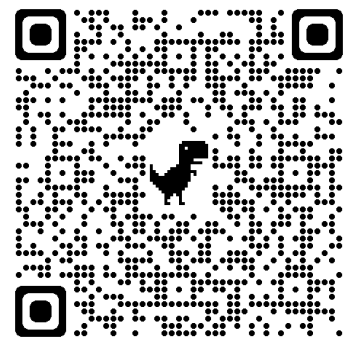
## Spotlight on the School

### Family Math Night

October 25th from 5:00-6:00pm! A fun filled evening with pizza and games for the whole family! We hope to see you there! If you have not filled out an RSVP form yet, please let your child's teacher know if you plan to be there!

### Get Your Spirit Wear

Spirit wear is on sale through October. Our spirit wear is available once a year and is printed at Maine Coast Outfitters. Please visit the online site to purchase your today! Use the QR code

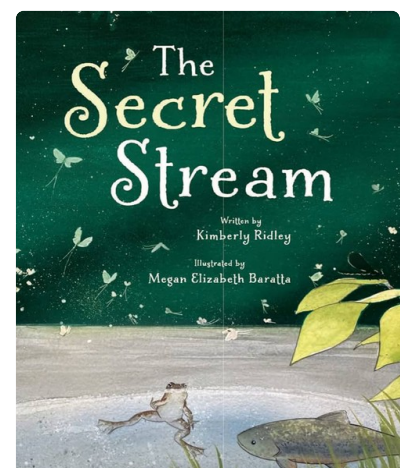


### The Patriot's Pen Program Essay Contest

The Patriot's Pen Program is a nationwide Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)- sponsored youth essay program. This year's theme is "How are you inspired by America?". Middle school students (grades 6-8) have been working on the essay as a class assignment. The focus is meeting proficiency on the writing process standards. Students are welcome to enter their work in this contest. An informational/ official entry form has been sent home with students. This needs to be completed by parents/ guardians. The deadline for completed work and entry forms is Thurs. Oct. 26, 2023. This gives us time to forward entries to the VFW representatives. If another entry form is needed, students can get them from Ms. Gallagher.

### Authors Visit

Kim Ridley, author of, *The Secret Stream* and *Extreme Survivors*, will be visiting our school **on Tuesday, Oct. 24th**. She will hold an assembly, read-loud, and writers workshops. Kim will work with all the students in the school.



# Tiger Clubs and Athletics

## Cross Country

Our Cross Country team will wrap up a tremendous season at the Airline Invitational on October 24th. Congratulations to all of our cross country runners for a great season!

## Fall Garden Club

The Garden Club meets seasonally, once a week, and is for grades 4-8. The students have finished the fall harvest and planting around the school this past week. Fifteen students participated and harvested herbs, leeks, tomatoes, carrots, flowers, and onions that were planted last spring. They have planted garlic and flower bulbs over the last few weeks. They have also improved the soil with compost. Please look for more information on the Garden Club for the next seasonal session.

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## Counselor's Note

Congratulations to all families and staff! We have made it past the first 6 weeks of school. We are actually almost done with our 8th! We spend a lot of time re-adjusting to the school routines and rhythms, learning classroom expectations, getting used to a new teacher, a new classroom dynamic...

This past month, most of our school counseling (SEL) classes have looked at "Respect." We've been working on understanding respect of self, others and our spaces. Your student should be able to name a few ways to show respect! We also get daily practice as we interact with our peers, teachers and classrooms. Admittedly, it can be hard to do sometimes, especially if we are hungry, tired or having a hard day. Gentle reminders to be respectful in our language, gestures and behaviors help students to understand all the ways and situations where respect can be found and help them to distinguish between a respectful moment versus a disrespectful one.

October is a month in which we usually acknowledge Bullying Prevention. By learning about respect and promoting the spirit of treating each other with kindness, acceptance and inclusion every day, we are working to prevent bullying situations. We encourage students to stand up to bullying, mean and rude behavior. Research has found that rude, mean and bullying behaviors decrease more when a peer stands up to it - we call it being an "Upstander!" We also encourage students that if they see or hear something, say something.

October is also ADHD Awareness Month! Did you know that 9.8% of children have been diagnosed with ADHD? That's more than 6 million children across the US. What you may know is that ADHD can look like impulsive behaviors, inability to sit still, and a lack of focus, but it can also look like low self-esteem, being withdrawn and anxiety. One useful thing to help support students with ADHD is to create structure, rhythm and routine to their day, breaking down tasks into smaller chunks, and giving directions one at a time. Celebrate even small successes!

**If you feel your child would benefit from seeing me or you have a concern, please let me know. Or if you have any questions or want to check in, feel free to reach out too! The easiest way to get in touch with me is by email at [egarvey@surryschool.org](mailto:egarvey@surryschool.org).**

Have a great weekend!

## Upcoming Events

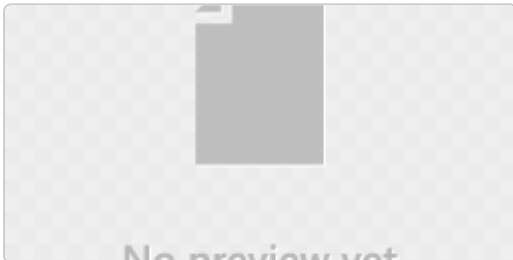
- 10/23/23 - School Board meeting @ 5:00 pm
- 10/23/23 - PTCO Fundraising Meeting @ 6pm
- 10/27/23 - Early Release Day for Students @ 12pm
- 10/27/23 - SCIA Harvest Dinner @ 5:30 pm
- 10/28/23 - Contra Dance @ 6:00 pm
- 10/31/23 - Trunk or Treat - 4pm - 6pm
- 11/03/23 - Surry Middle School Dance - 6pm- 9pm
- 11/06/23 - PTCO meeting @ 6:00 pm

Our 2023-2024 School Calendar: <https://www.schoolunion93.org/surry/surry-school-calendar>

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/surryschool](http://www.facebook.com/surryschool)



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### School Union 93

Welcome to School Union 93! Serving the towns of Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Penobscot, and Surry.

[schoolunion93.org](http://schoolunion93.org)



**Larry Clement**

Larry is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

